United Nations A/AC.198/2001/6

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 March 2001

Original: English

Committee on Information
Twenty-third session
30 April-11 May 2001

Cooperation between the Department of Public Information and the University for Peace in Costa Rica

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 55/136 B of 8 December 2000, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on cooperation between the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and the University for Peace in Costa Rica as a focal point for promoting United Nations activities and disseminating United Nations information materials. The present report highlights some of the activities undertaken by the Department of Public Information to develop and enhance cooperation with the University for Peace in Costa Rica.

2. In order to maintain and enhance its cooperation with the University for Peace, the Department of Public Information has consistently publicized the activities of the University and provided it with its information output in print, video and audio formats.

3. The Department also participates in the University's substantive activities. In December 2000, for example, it took part in a panel discussion involving executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system on the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004. Organized by the University for Peace and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the panel was part of a ceremony held at the Palais Wilson in Geneva in observance of Human Rights Day 2000. It included a forum on "Human Rights Education: a Contribution to a Culture of Peace" that was addressed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

4. The Department has continued to publicize the activities of the University for Peace in its print output, including press releases. For example, the recent donation by the Canadian International Development Agency to the University for Peace in support of its new programme was reflected in a press release produced by the Department in January 2001. The Department will continue to publicize the activities of the University for Peace related to the issues of concern to the United Nations.

5. For its public information outreach, the University for Peace also receives on a regular basis copies of the Department's weekly television news magazine "UN in Action".

6. Commencing with the 1999 edition, the *Yearbook of the United Nations* will include a summary of the Secretary-General's report on cooperation with the University for Peace and the text of the General Assembly resolution on the subject.

7. For almost two decades, United Nations Radio has maintained a close working partnership with Radio for Peace International — a short-wave broadcasting station that transmits its programming from the campus of the University for Peace in Costa Rica. Radio for Peace International retransmitted taped and news

01-28220 (E) 160301

programmes of United Nations Radio in English, French and Spanish to audiences in the Caribbean and Central America. Starting in September 2000, when United Nations Radio launched its daily live news and current affairs programme in the six official languages, Radio for Peace International began broadcasting the programme in English and Spanish to same target regions.

8. As the University for Peace develops its new academic and research programme, particularly in support of education in the culture of peace and conflict prevention, the Department of Public Information will continue to strengthen its cooperation with the University with a view to disseminating more effectively information about its programme activities and accomplishments.